

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application. The Appeal as filed by applicants on December 4, 2002 is hereby withdrawn.

Record is also made of an interview between applicants' representative and the Examiner which took place on January 21, 2003. The Examiner is thanked for his help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed in light of the final rejection of claim 1. As a result of the interview, applicants now submit amendments to claim 1 which is drawn up in accordance with the agreement at the interview so as to overcome each and every objection or rejection to the claim as set forth in the Examiner's Official Action of September 4, 2002.

In addition, as a further result of the interview, applicants present herewith a new claim 3 which is dependent on claim 1 and relates to the arrangement of an odometer. Support therefore can be found on page 8, lines 7 and 8 of the instant specification.

The Examiner agreed that the subject matter of claim 1 is distinguishable over the prior art of record; however, an updated search is needed to make a final determination about patentability of the claims on file.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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